

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. I understand that they are not intending to air any other viewpoint. This is not giving the public a full spectrum of information with which to make an informed decision. The availability of full information is the basis for a free and democratic society.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. It's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter and not only what reflects the political view of the corporate body.

Our regulations are set up to ensure a free flow of information. Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. There should be an honest assessment of the station's history of media content and service to the communities they reach. Thank you.